

1970

Soc. & Pol. Village Voice

114 UNDERGROUND

regard to politics and the like. The editors do have specific ideas and we do present them in print; however, we keep the paper open [to] other or "outside" viewpoints. . . . We attempt to broaden the outlook of our readers. We present "cosmopolitan" and sometimes radical thought in politics, religion, culture, and the like. . . . We muckrake and cover local stories that are ignored or presented in a one-sided fashion in the daily press. . . . Spokane is a cultural and educational backwater. We are trying, through our articles, to bring her into the 20th century. . . . The Natural is a small paper but for some reason not understood by the editors (or the city of Spokane) we are one of the best of the "underground" papers. (This is not so much our opinion as that of a number of "movement observers" around the country.) There is very little local support for the paper and totally insufficient local financial support; the Natural, however, has a stubborn streak and refuses to die. We intend to bring some of the positive attributes of the 20th century to Spokane and combat some of the evils of the big city that have not yet set in in Spokane (e.g., urban blight).

The issues examined contain articles on the police, birth control, marijuana, student protests, resistance to the draft, and the persecution of the Natural by the city fathers of Spokane. There are occasional poems, as well as columns devoted to astrology, sports, recipes, groups of popular musicians, and "Happenings" in the Spokane area. (TJS)

Feedback:

"Quite all right, thanks."

VILLAGE VOICE

61 Christopher St
New York, N.Y. 10014
Weekly; \$5 a year
Started: October 1955

Circulation: ?
Format: 64-page Tabloid
Issues examined: 22 February and
11 April 1968
Indexing: Alternative Press Index

The Village Voice, a newspaper of Greenwich Village in New York City, is one of the earliest examples of the new "alternative" press. Coverage of the political/cultural scene in New York, including community protest action and the avant-garde in art and theatre, is supplemented by a general interest in civil rights, sexual freedom, and the Resistance. Columnists cover jazz, the dance, theater, films, fashion, science, the press, and new books.

Articles in the Voice often treat the minority point of view ---

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that of various peoples and subcultures in the community and in the world. One issue is devoted largely to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. "The Sound of Color: Who's Got Rhythm" relates the great difficulty blacks have in obtaining positions in symphonic orchestras. "Puerto Ricans in Search of a New Frontier" discusses the powerlessness of another minor-ity group, and Norm Fruchter's "North Vietnam: Sept. 29-Oct. 17 [1967]" is the personal narrative of an antiwar activist and visitor to that country. In 1968 the Voice ran a series of portraits of Americans in Ecuador. Articles on the present political scene include "The Reality Festival Starts at the Bottom", an early look at the Yippies. (MM)

WASHINGTON FREE PRESS

3 Thomas Circle
 Washington, D.C. 20005
 Bi-weekly
 \$5 for 52 issues
 Started: March 1966

Circulation: 10,000
 Format: 24-page Tabloid, illus-
 trated with photographs and
 drawings
 Issues examined: 20 February,
 27 March, 31 May, 24 June,
 and 16 July 1968

A member of the editorial staff writes: "The Free Press sel-dom takes an editorial position in the traditional article. We do feel here that the paper as a whole is our editorial. That is, the existence of the Free Press as well as its content is our editorial. Selection of articles is achieved through a vote of the staff of the paper. Few are the times when we all agree upon content." He goes on to list some of the paper's positions: anti-war, anti-imperialism; pro-hippie, "pro and con drugs --- pro drug information"; in favor of social revolution, student power, black power, and technological revolution.

The newspaper contains reprints from other underground papers; letters to the editor; a column, "Dear Gen. Marsbars", of advice to draft resisters; occasional poetry; reviews of cabaret performances, plays, movies, and music; a column, "Where To Go", listing current entertain-ments in the area; and classified advertisements (sometimes for such bizarre services or products as "Hip Headshrinking" and "Orgy Butter, the luxury lubricant" [sic]).

Among the articles in the issues examined were these: "Revo-lucionario Christiano" (interview with a Maryknoll priest who had worked with the poor in Guatemala); "Howard Students Take Over, Demand End to Reprisals"; "Washington's Dr Strangelove" (on a "think tank" doing research for the government in counter-insurgency. "Dr Weigert seemed honestly dismayed that anyone would want to do a story on his work. And yet he is a perfect figure to illustrate intellect in the service of a govern-